

Local

Publisher says books will fall to computers

BY MICHELE ROWLAND
Battalion Reporter
Word processors, computer printouts, optical character readers and image scanners, all driven by electronic impulses, will eventually replace the scholarly publishing industry, a book publisher says.

Frederick A. Praeger, founder of the Westview Press, told an audience of around 100 Wednesday afternoon in the Sterling C. Evans Library that while the impact of technological advance is wonderful, scientific publishers find the situation somewhat depressing.

With the advent of information storage units electronically connected to a machine which will spit out print at the push of a button, Praeger said the "scientific publishing institution will simply disappear."

Libraries will become utility centers, with keyboards connecting to data banks, Praeger said.

A researcher will be able to scan information on a screen and choose what parts he wants printed at the press of a button.

Libraries will no longer house mostly print and some microfiche, but will change to accommodate 80 percent electronic devices, 15

percent printouts, and only 5 percent books.

"The entire world will have access to knowledge," Praeger said.

By individually owning a coupling device and a printout machine, a person could call and connect with an information bank and have the world's knowledge at his or her disposal, Praeger said.

In this turmoil and computerization, the scholarly publisher will be left behind, Praeger said.

People won't need all the unnecessary copies of papers which take up shelf space, he said.

With the new technology, one copy or access to copy will suffice, he said.

The demand for 600 copies of a book now will dwindle to 50 copies, each stored in easily accessible information banks scattered throughout the nation, he said.

Praeger said that he used to be an innovator, but now felt like an ancient gladiator marching past Caesar saying "Those who must die, salute you."

Combatting copy machines, the scholarly publishing industry already faces an economic crunch, but with the technological advances of tomorrow, Praeger said, the industry has too many enemies.



Photo by Wang Borchwein

Founder of the Westview Press, Frederick A. Praeger, told listeners in the Sterling C. Evans Library Wednesday afternoon that while computer technology is wonderful, he feels like an ancient gladiator marching past Caesar saying "Those who must die, salute you."



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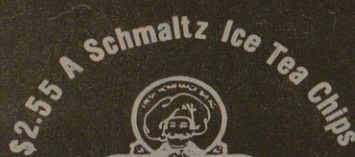
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Rules and regulations changes to be considered

By JANE C. BRUST

Battalion Staff
The Texas A&M University Academic Council will consider proposed changes in the University Rules and Regulations at its meeting Friday at 1:30 p.m. in 601 Rudder.

Council members will also approve candidates for graduate and undergraduate degrees and candidates for the Doctor of Medicine degrees to be awarded in May.

One part of the proposal would create a new Appendix that describes penalties for tampering with campus fire alarm systems. The Class A misdemeanor is punishable by:

- a fine not to exceed \$2,000,
- confinement in jail for a term not to exceed one year,
- or both the fine and imprisonment.

The student offender would also be subject to appropriate University administrative sanctions.

Another proposed change in the rules and regulations deals with section 18(1)(a) concerning autho-

rized absences from class. The reason reading "participation in an authorized University activity" would be changed to read "participation in an activity appearing on the University Authorized Activity List."

Another proposal would add a new item to section 20 regarding the "X" notation on grade reports.

The "X" notation is assigned to a course by the registrar at the end of a semester or summer term when a grade is not submitted by the instructor.

The instructor would have 30 days from the beginning of the semester to report a change of grade to the registrar. If a change of grade report was not received,

the registrar would remove the "X" notation and assign a grade of "F."

Another new item would be added concerning criminal offenses occurring off campus. The proposed item says in the case of such an offense not connected with a University activity, the University would take disciplinary action against the student involved only when the student's presence on campus would hinder the educational process and the orderly operation of the University.

A definition for the term "student" would also be added to the rules and regulations if the council approves the proposed changes.

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